

Evaluation of FAO's contribution to Strategic Objective 5 - Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Call for Expressions of Interest – Analysts (4 positions)

11 February 2016

Background

FAO's Office of Evaluation (OED) is starting an evaluation of FAO's contribution to enhanced resilience of livelihoods (Strategic Objective 5), scheduled from December 2015 until summer 2016.

The concept of 'resilience' has recently gained currency in humanitarian and development circles. This comes from the recognition that the frequency of natural disasters is growing, that a number of "protracted crises" have persisted for several decades and that investments in development, early warning and humanitarian aid have failed to prevent some countries from being struck by recurrent crises. This, together with the impact of climate change, has led to a realization that crises are here to stay, and have to be confronted as a permanent feature of the development landscape.

FAO defines resilience as:

"The ability to prevent disasters and crises as well as to anticipate, absorb, accommodate or recover and adapt from them in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner. This includes protecting, restoring and improving food and agricultural systems under threats that impact agriculture, food and nutrition security, and food safety (and related public health)".

In 2013, FAO reviewed its Strategic Framework for 2010-19, stressing the importance of greater focus, collaboration across units to achieve corporate goals, and better response to country needs. The [Strategic Framework](#), approved in June 2013, outlined five new Strategic Objectives, including "Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises" (Strategic Objective 5).

Objectives

The objectives of the evaluation are:

1. Help FAO management and governing bodies assess progress made towards implementing the new FAO vision and the new orientations that are embedded in Strategic Objective 5;
2. Examine how the reviewed strategic framework has added value to FAO's efforts to enhance the resilience of rural livelihoods to vulnerabilities and crises;
3. Based on the above, provide strategic recommendations for FAO and the Strategic Programme Management Team, and in particular help shape the next MTP outcomes and outputs under Strategic Programme 5.

Methodology

The evaluation will rely on multiple sources for data collection and mixed-methods for analysis, validation and triangulation of evidence against the evaluation questions. Sources of data and methods of collection will include: document review and administrative data analysis; meta-synthesis of evidence from independent evaluations conducted by OED and some decentralized evaluations commissioned by FAO country or regional offices and headquarters units; interviews and survey of FAO staff and partners involved in resilience work as well as a smaller number of interviews with country staff not involved in resilience work; and approximately 3 country case studies to complement

the desk study of past and present evaluations, e.g. to highlight the kind of results achieved by the most innovative approaches.

Timetable

The preparatory phase of the evaluation started in December 2015, and the Terms of Reference will be finalized in February 2016. The evaluation will require most inputs from the analysts during the period April-July 2016.

Composition and profile of the evaluation team

The evaluation conduct will be led by the appointed FAO evaluation manager and will avail itself of the inputs of senior technical experts in different fields of resilience work. In addition, the Evaluation Office is seeking **four analysts** who will be tasked with reviewing and synthesizing a series of evaluations pertaining to the topic, as well as a sample of project documents to analyse their content and rate their quality. The same team of analysts will also review training materials and other normative products produced under SO 5. The positions are home-based and do not require travel.

Female candidates and candidates from developing countries are encouraged to apply.

Essential qualifications of analysts

- Degree in relevant disciplines (Economics, Development Studies, Social Sciences, Agriculture in its broad understanding, Food and Nutrition Security) with 10 years of relevant experience.
- Methodical and organized, with excellent analytical and writing skills.
- Previous experience in producing analytical frameworks, populating and writing reports based on meta-analysis of data, categorisations and comparisons of data and narratives, literature and documents' searches, annotated bibliographies, compilations of case studies, baselines and other writing in the development field, ideally in agriculture and food and nutrition security.
- Relevant country or regional experience would also be desirable, though not essential.

The working language will be English. Knowledge of other official FAO languages (particularly French and Spanish) will be an advantage.

Application process

Interested candidates should send their application by **26th February 2016** to Opportunities-Eval@fao.org with copy to Manar.Abdelmagied@fao.org. Please specify "Evaluation of SO5 - Analysts" in the email subject line.

Applications should include a detailed Curriculum Vitae containing:

- Information on gender, age, current residence and nationality;
- Expected daily fee rate (exclusive of expenses); and
- Availability between April-July 2016.

Potential candidates will be contacted in March 2016 for interviews. Short-listed candidates will be requested to register in the [FAO iRecruitment platform](#).